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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Industrial Plants and Production

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Zeiss Optical Works.

- a. A considerable drop in production at the VEB Optik Carl Zeiss, Jena, followed the disturbances of 17 Jun 53 and delayed until mid-July the delivery to the USSR of 35 aerial topographic instruments which should have been shipped on 30 Jun 53.
- b. It has just been learned that Zeiss is to construct an infra-search radar apparatus developed by a firm in Dresden during the past year. According to unverified reports, four to six pieces are currently to be shipped weekly.
- c. Optical sighting devices continue to be produced of the same types as formerly, chiefly for delivery to the people's democracies. The manufacture of curve pontentiometers in serial production has been suspended.
- d. Emphasis is being placed on export articles, including microscopes, polariscopes (with synthetic nickel prisms), spectacle lenses, operation lamps (a new product, completely heat-absorbing), motion picture projectors, and photographic equipment (chiefly Praktika with Tessar objective).
- e. The production of field glasses (mainly 6 by 10 and 10 by 50) has been raised to about 12,000 pieces per month. Telescopic sights for light guns are also being produced.
- f. The manufacture of infra filters and iconoscope disks (Bildwandler-scheiben) continues.
- g. About 2,000 lenses are delivered monthly to a Soviet works in Kiev which manufactures the German Leica. They have inscriptions in Russian.

THE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

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- 2 -

2. VEB Gus, Leipzig

- a. The VEB Gus (formerly Mayer & Weichelt) at Leipzig is currently producing castings for the Soviet Union electrical engineering works, S. M. Kirov, as reparations goods. Eight stators and accompanying parts for hydrogenerators have been cast, finished, and shipped to Rostock for this Soviet works. From Rostock they reportedly are shipped to Leningrad. The stators have an inside diameter of 8 to 12 meters.
- b. Further orders for heavy lathe basins (Becken) and other machine tools have been filled for the Meuselwitz heavy machine factory. Since 1 July, 14 lathe basins, several drill press stands and two large milling machines have been delivered to this factory. These machines leave VEB Gus in an unfinished state and Meuselwitz complains continually that the delivered parts are largely unusable for export because they contain blisters.
- c. Chain drive parts for caterpillar vehicles are being delivered as formerly for the VEB Maschinenfabrik Salzgungen. Production was interrupted for 14 days; the Ministry of Machine Construction proposed to discontinue it, but the Soviet authority would not agree. About 30 tons of these chain parts are manufactured monthly, of which a part is finished in the plant and the other part is delivered to Salzgungen. The individual links are 40 cm wide.
- d. There has been no change as to numbers and kind in the production of castings for shells.
- e. There are no difficulties with the supply of steel and iron. The financial position of the works is anything but good, however. There is an annual deficit resulting from reparations deliveries which has to be made up by a subvention of three to four millions from government funds.

3. Gerätebau Schönebeck-Elbe.

- a. Up to 15 Jul 53, the Gerätebau Schönebeck-Elbe had installed 132 charging stations on cargo trucks. The trucks were partly IFA and partly Soviet types. They are fitted with special bodies, the separate parts of which are delivered by IFA Halle. The charging stations have a 50 hp Diesel engine which is manufactured in the plant. These engines are also delivered separately to the Soviet Union at the rate of about 25 per month.
- b. Besides IFA Halle, Lindner of Ammendorf and VEM Magdeburg are concerned in the manufacture of these charging sets. VEM Magdeburg delivers installation material. Some of the cars receive their switch installations directly at Magdeburg.

4. Lenz Paint Factory.

- a. The Lackfabrik Lenz at Zeitz at the beginning of July received an order for the manufacture of 12 tons of camouflage paste. The plant heretofore has produced mainly nitro paint and anti-rust material.

5. Benzinwerk Böhlen.

- a. During the past month the Benzinwerk Böhlen, of Leipzig, delivered 3,200 tons of jet fuel from a gasoline basis and about 8,000 tons of airplane gasoline to the Soviet Union.

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